

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 23353 150924Z
ACTION SNM-05

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9389

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STATE FOR S/NM

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: SNAR, TH
SUBJECT: CODEL MANN BRIEFING

REF A. STATE 198885

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES REFTEL SUMMARY OF DEBRIEFING OF CONGRESSMEN MANN AND EVANS. WE ARE VERY PLEASED THAT THEY AGREE WITH THE CONTINUATION OF OUR PROGRAM OF ENCOURAGING AND ASSISTING THE RTG IN ITS ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORTS.

2. WE HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN AWARE OF PROPOSAL FOR PROVID PROVIDING EXTRA FUEL TANKS TO INCREASE THE PRESENT RANGE OF THE SEVEN USG-PROVIDED HELICOPTERS. THESE HELICOPTERS ARE NORMALLY STATIONED IN NORTHERN THAILAND AND THEIR CURRENT RANGE HAS BEEN MORE THAN ADEQUATE FOR THE REQUIREMENTS THAT HAVE THUS FAR BEEN PLACED ON THEM. IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR CURRENT EFFORT TO GET THE HELICOPTERS FULLY OPERATIONAL WE WILL LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY THAT INCREASED RANGE WOULD PROVIDE FOR GREATER UTILIZATION AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE AIRCRAFT.

3. CODEL VISITED THE ROYAL THAI CUSTOMS BOAT FACILITY
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AND WE DISCUSSED FULLY OUR CUSTOMS BOAT PROGRAM WITH THEM. ALL OF THE USG PROVIDED BOATS ARE FULLY OPERATIONAL AND WELL MAINTAINED. THERE IS AN ON-GOING PROBLEM WITH THE SPARE PARTS PIPE LINE FOR PATROL BOATS, PARTICULARLY DEADLINED ENGINES. WE ARE ADDRESSING THIS PROBLEM AND WILL PROBABLY INCLUDE SOME TYPE OF SPARE PARTS SUPPLY ASSISTANCE IN THE PROPOSED FY79

PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH THAI CUSTOMS.

4. DURING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CODEL, SOME PROBLEMS THAT HAVE EMERGED FROM THE INCREASING NUMBERS OF THIRD COUNTRY NARCOTICS ATTACHES STATIONED IN BANGKOK WERE TOUCHED UPON. ONE OF THESE IS THE INCREASED BURDEN THE ADDITIONAL LIAISON RESPONSIBILITIES REPRESENT TO SENIOR THAI POLICE AND NARCOTICS OFFICIALS. THIS IS NOT A MAJOR PROBLEM, HOWEVER, AND IS MORE THAN BALANCED BY THE BENEFITS OF THE THIRD COUNTRY PRESENCE. SINCE JULY, THERE HAVE BEEN FORMAL MONTHLY MEETINGS OF ALL OF THE NARCOTIC ATTACHES, INCLUDING DEA. WE WILL CONTINUE TO BE ACTIVE IN THE EXISTING NARCOTICS COMMUNITY, BOTH OFFICIALLY AND INFORMALLY, AND TO SEEK WAYS TO EASE THE DEVELOPMENT OF CORDIAL WORKING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE THIRD COUNTRY ATTACHES AND THE THAI OFFICIALS. ABRAMOWITZ

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